

SPAWN



John B. ...
+ fco



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PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN RESURRECTION*


Five years ago, Al Simmons removed himself to a state of limbo by means of suicide. But what tragic revelation could persuade him to finally return to the city, and how is this connected to the very creation of humanity? After finding out the events of his past was all a calculated maneuver, including the death of his wife and unborn child, Al vows vengeance and begins the journey to taking his life back.




HUMANS, EVERY DAY WE EXIST IS AN EXPERIMENT.



SOMETIMES THAT EXPERIMENT WORKS THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED.



OTHER TIMES, IT DEVIATES FROM THAT COURSE. BUT THROUGH IT ALL, 'THE STRONG SURVIVE.' AND THE STRONGER YOU ARE, THE BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.



THE THING IS, NO MATTER HOW BIG YOU MIGHT BE, OR HOW STRONG YOU ARE...

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU ARE.

AND IF THAT SOMEONE
DECIDES TO BECOME
YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE
THEY THINK YOU HAVE
WRONGED THEM...TO
HUMILIATE THEM...THEY
WILL STOP AT NOTHING
TO PROVE THEY ARE
YOUR SUPERIOR ON
EVERY LEVEL.

YET THE STRONGEST CAN, AT TIMES, BE COWARDS.
CHOOSING INSTEAD TO TAKE THEIR EMOTIONS OUT ON
THE WEAKEST, MOST INNOCENT AROUND THEM. HOPING
THOSE ATTACKS WILL ENRAGE THEIR ACTUAL ENEMY.

SO IF A WOMAN... A WIFE NEEDS
TO PAY THE PRICE FOR HER
HUSBAND, SO BE IT. AND EVEN IF
THAT WOMAN WAS CARRYING AN
UNBORN CHILD AT THE TIME, IT
DOESN'T MATTER. THE ONLY
THING THAT DOES, IS GETTING THE
ATTENTION OF YOUR ENEMY.

BUT NOT EVERY ONE OF YOUR
ENEMIES COWER. THERE ARE SOME
WHO WILL RISE AND DEFEY YOU. WHO
WILL FIGHT BACK TO HELP PROTECT
THEIR LOVED ONES WITH EVERY
OUNCE OF POWER THEY HAVE.
BECAUSE THE DAY THEY ALLOW
HARM TO THOSE THEY LOVE MOST...

...THEY KNOW WHAT
DAY THAT IS!



A
COLD day in
HELL



WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT OLD MAN? GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE... BEFORE YOU GET HURT.

YOU DEAF? I SAID YOU'D BETTER BE LEAVING, NOW.

THE OTHER DAY-- WERE ANY OF YOU INVOLVED WITH THAT RIOT?

WE DON'T TALK TO COPS.

WHEN I'M DONE, JUST LOOKING FOR A FEW ANSWERS.

NOT ASKING YOU TO, I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME.



I HEARD THE RIOTS FLOODED TO THESE STREETS THE OTHER NIGHT? I WONDER IF YOU SAW A CAR?

DUDE, WE SAW LOTS OF CARS. POLICE CARS. GHOST CARS. PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELONG AROUND HERE DRIVING UP IN THEIR CARS. WE HAD A BUNCH OF THOSE PEOPLE-- THE ONES THAT DON'T BELONG. YOU MIGHT OF HEARD, THEY SHOT A BOY, STRAIGHT IN THE BACK, KILLED HIM FOR DOING NOTHING!

WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?

YOU TELL ME?! AFTER THAT CRAZY BUG INVASION... THE COPS AND MILITARY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE US ALONE. WE WERE JUST LETTING THEM KNOW WE WANTED OUR HOMES BACK. THEY DON'T GET TO TELL US WHERE WE GO AND WHERE TO LIVE.*

*See issues 249 and 250 -- Todd.



I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT.

A CAR WAS BURNT. IT HAD A WOMAN INSIDE. I'M LOOKING FOR THOSE THAT SET THE FIRE.

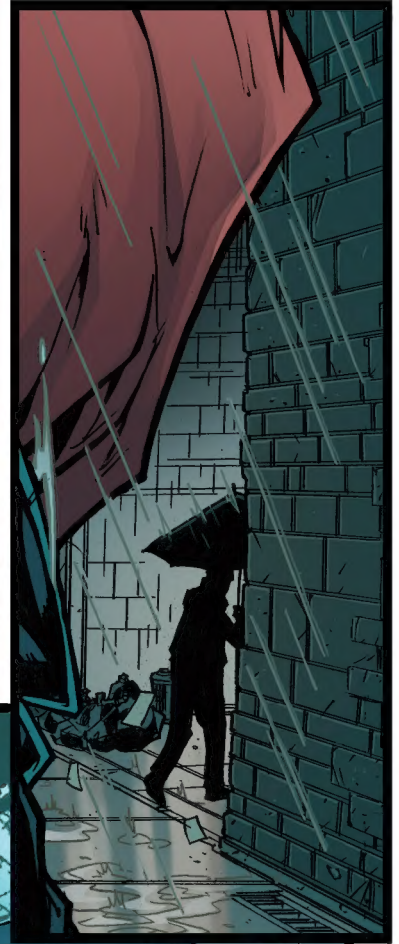




THE DOG. IT'S THE SAME ONE HE SAW IN THE 'BLACK.' THE SAME ONE THAT TOLD HIM WANDA WAS DEAD.

WHEN TOLD OF WANDA'S DEATH, A HUNDRED QUESTIONS RACED THROUGH AL'S MIND. BUT INSTEAD OF ASKING THEM, HE REMAINED SILENT. STOIC. BUT NOW, GIVEN TIME TO GET PAST HIS EMOTIONS, HE THINKS THIS COULD BE ANOTHER CHANCE TO ASK THEM.

WHETHER THOSE STALKING HIM WANT TO LISTEN OR NOT.



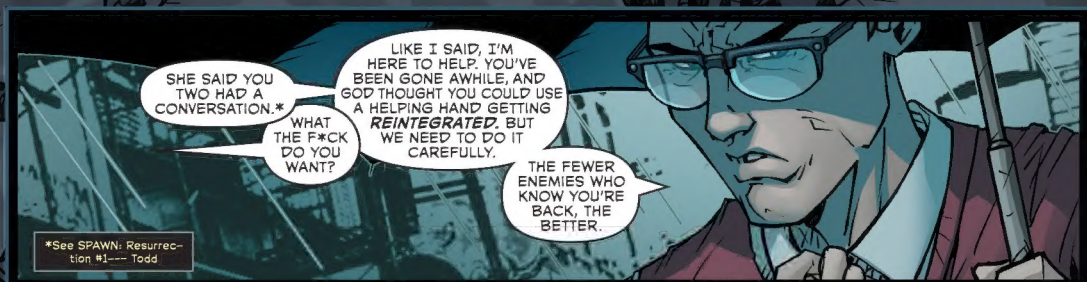
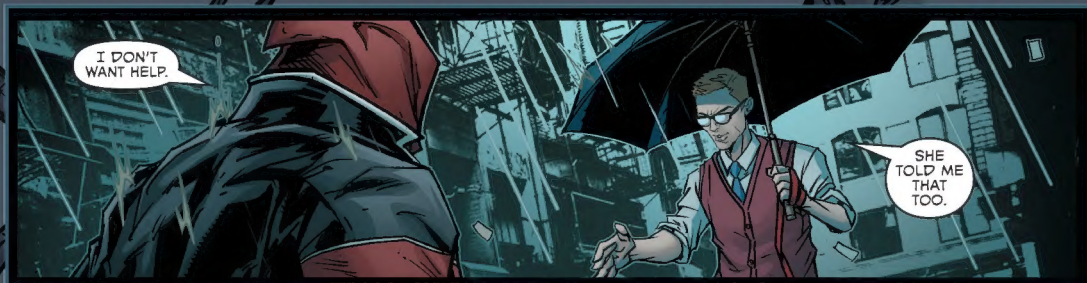
YOU...! STOP!

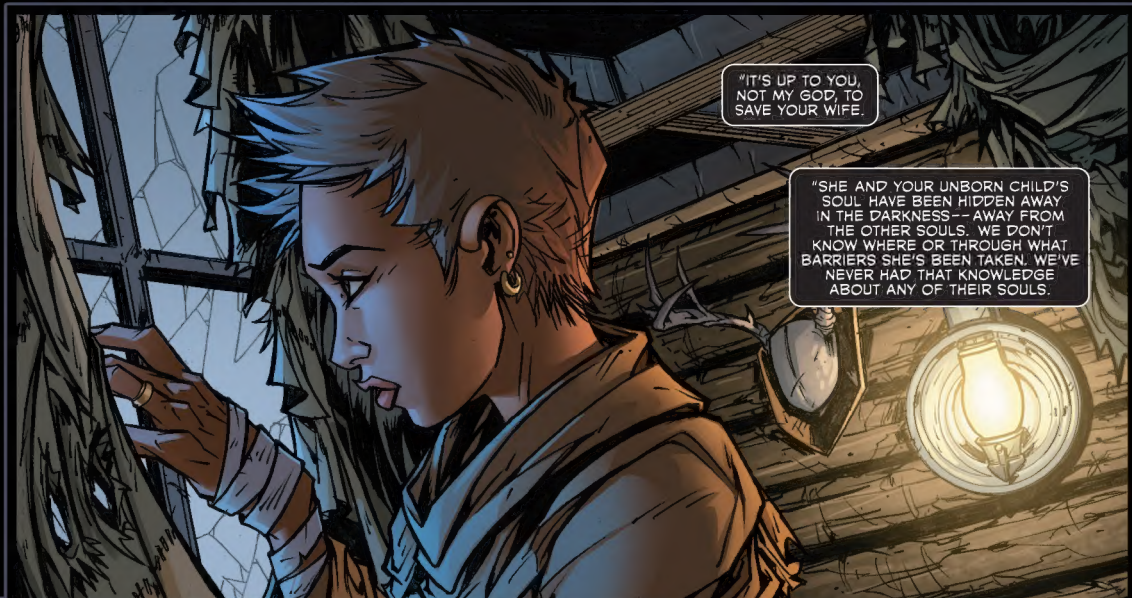
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?



BECAUSE I'M SUPPOSED TO. YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT. SO, STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE SURPRISED. SHE TOLD YOU I'D BE COMING.

THAT YOU MIGHT NEED MY HELP.





"IT'S UP TO YOU,
NOT MY GOD, TO
SAVE YOUR WIFE.

"SHE AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S
SOUL HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY
IN THE DARKNESS—AWAY FROM
THE OTHER SOULS. WE DON'T
KNOW WHERE OR THROUGH WHAT
BARRIERS SHE'S BEEN TAKEN. WE'VE
NEVER HAD THAT KNOWLEDGE
ABOUT ANY OF THEIR SOULS.



"BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN GOD
ANOINTS A PERSON BEFORE THEY DIE,
THEIR SOUL CAN BE PROTECTED, FOR A
TIME, FROM HELL'S SADISTIC TORTURE.




"YOUR WIFE WAS ONE OF
THOSE FEW GOD ANOINTED
BECAUSE HEAVEN KNEW
THAT THERE WOULD COME A
DAY WHEN ONE OF HELL'S
VERY OWN WOULD RISE
AGAINST SATAN HIMSELF.




"AND THE BEST WAY TO BE
ABLE TO EMPOWER THAT
PERSON WOULD BE TO
PROTECT THAT PERSON'S
LOVED ONES FOR AS LONG
AS POSSIBLE.




"NOT ONLY TO
PROTECT THE SOULS
OF THOSE WHO
ONCE LIVED..."



"BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE SOULS
OF THOSE INNOCENT LIVES WHO
NEVER WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE
TO LIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE."



"SO, IF YOU WANT TO HELP
YOUR WIFE, THEN I'D SUGGEST
YOU STOP WASTING YOUR TIME
WITH ME AND START MOVING
IN THAT DIRECTION."

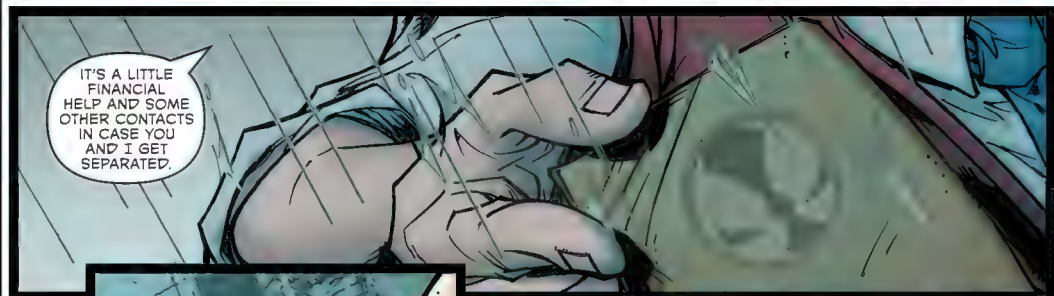
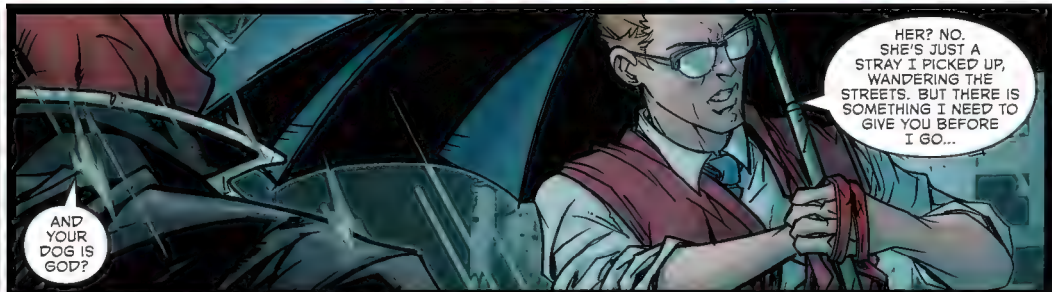


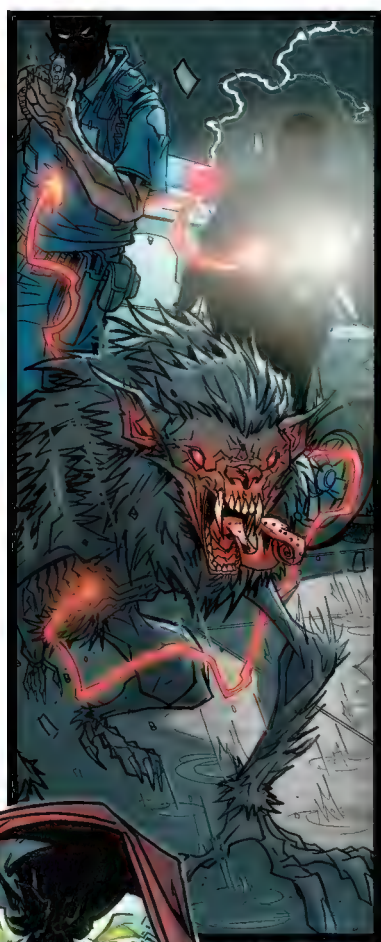
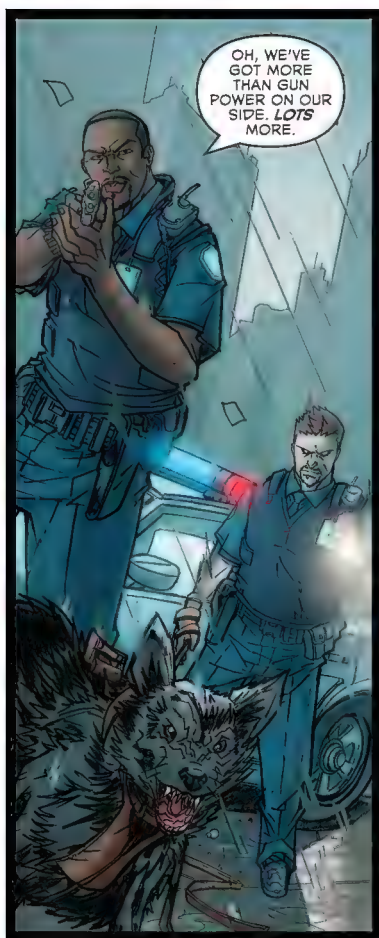
"YOUR WIFE'S EXISTENCE..."

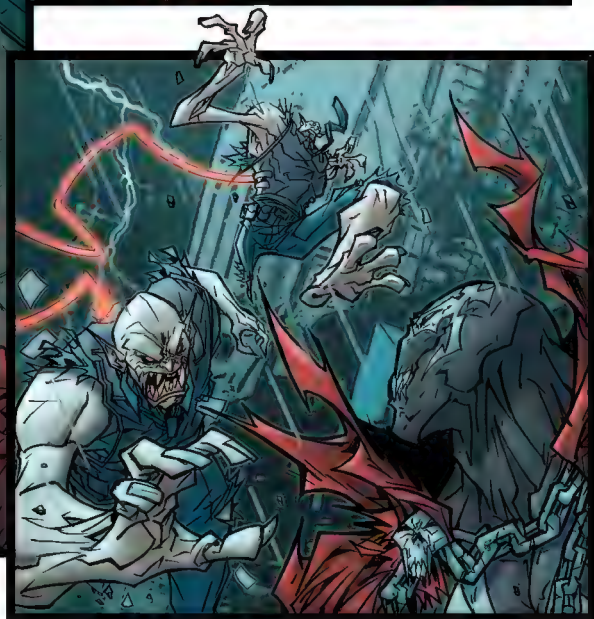
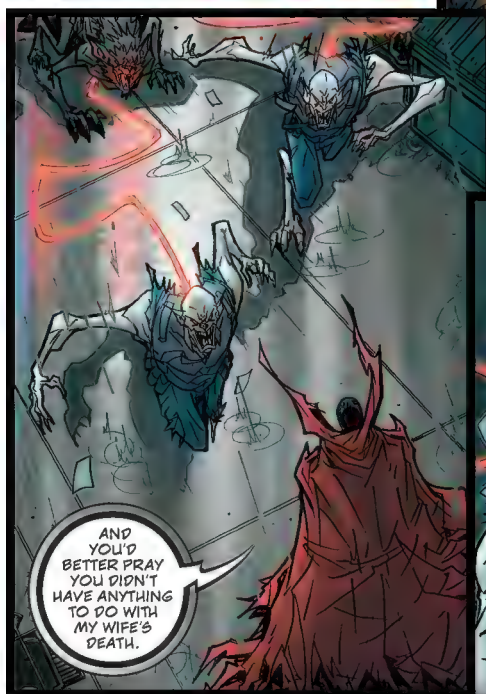
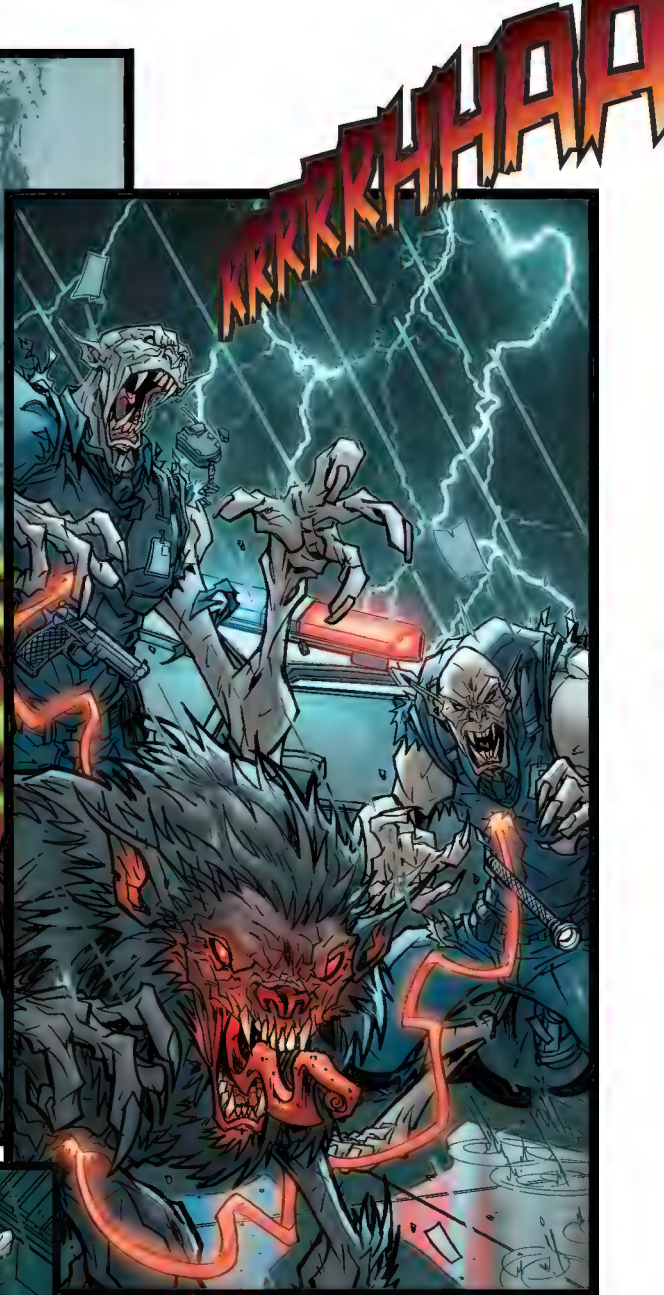


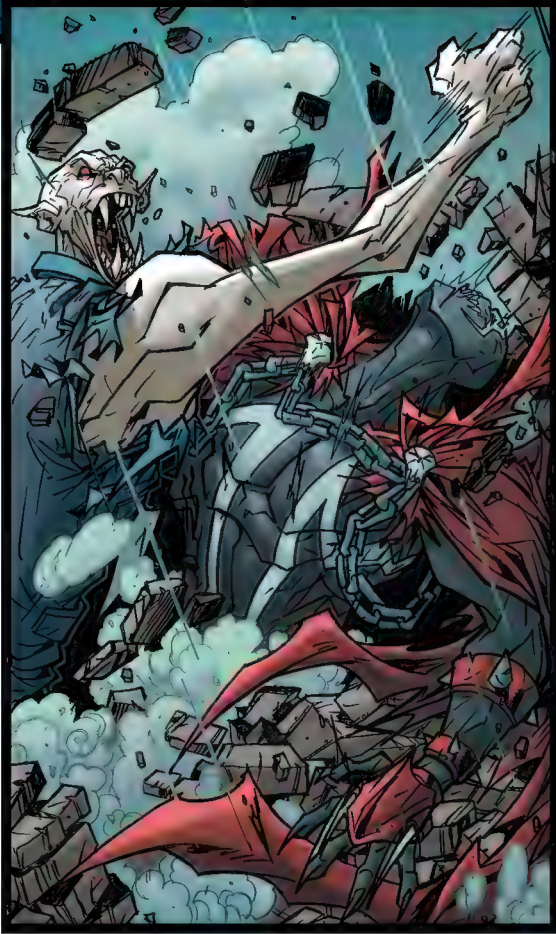
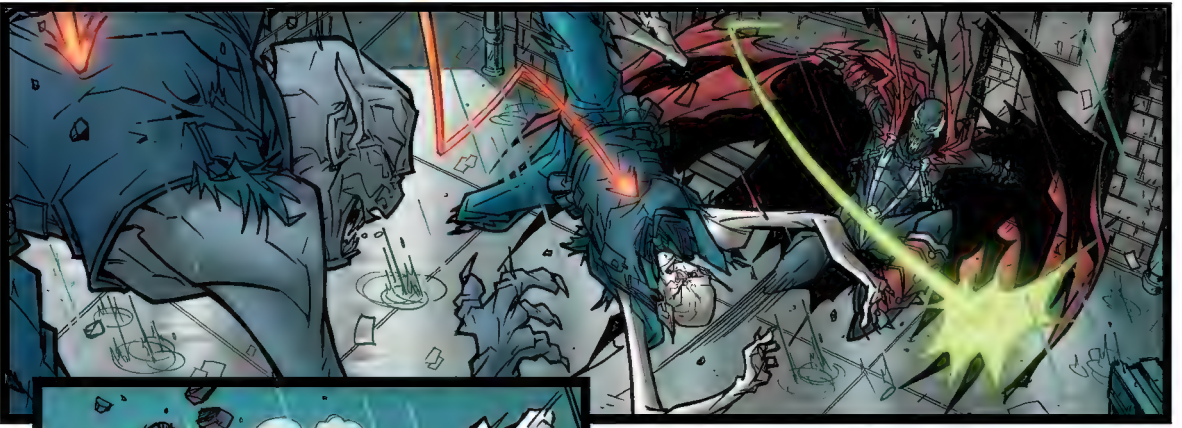
"...AND YOUR UNBORN
CHILD'S, DEPEND ON
YOUR NEXT MOVE."

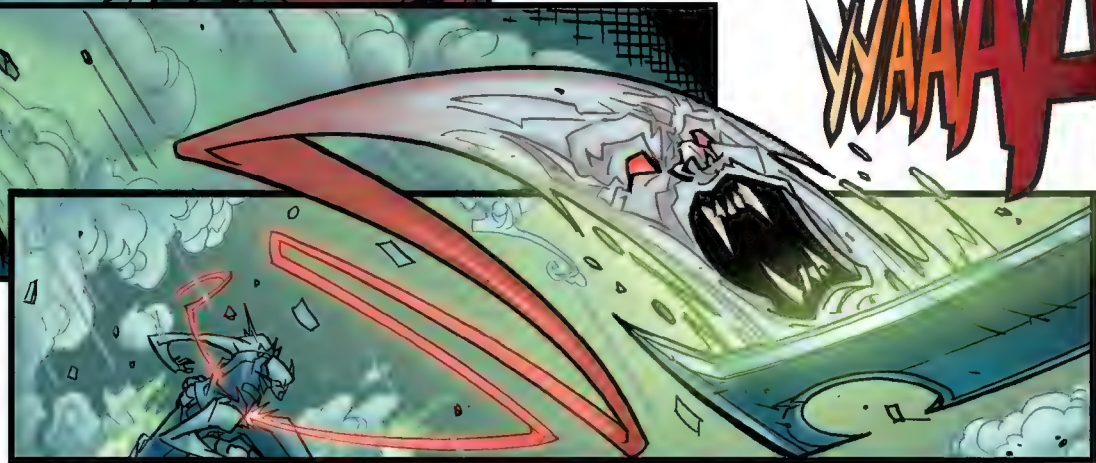
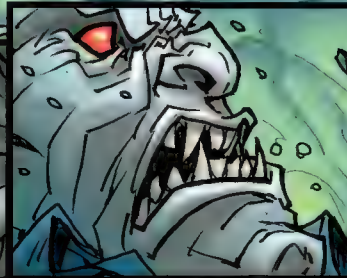
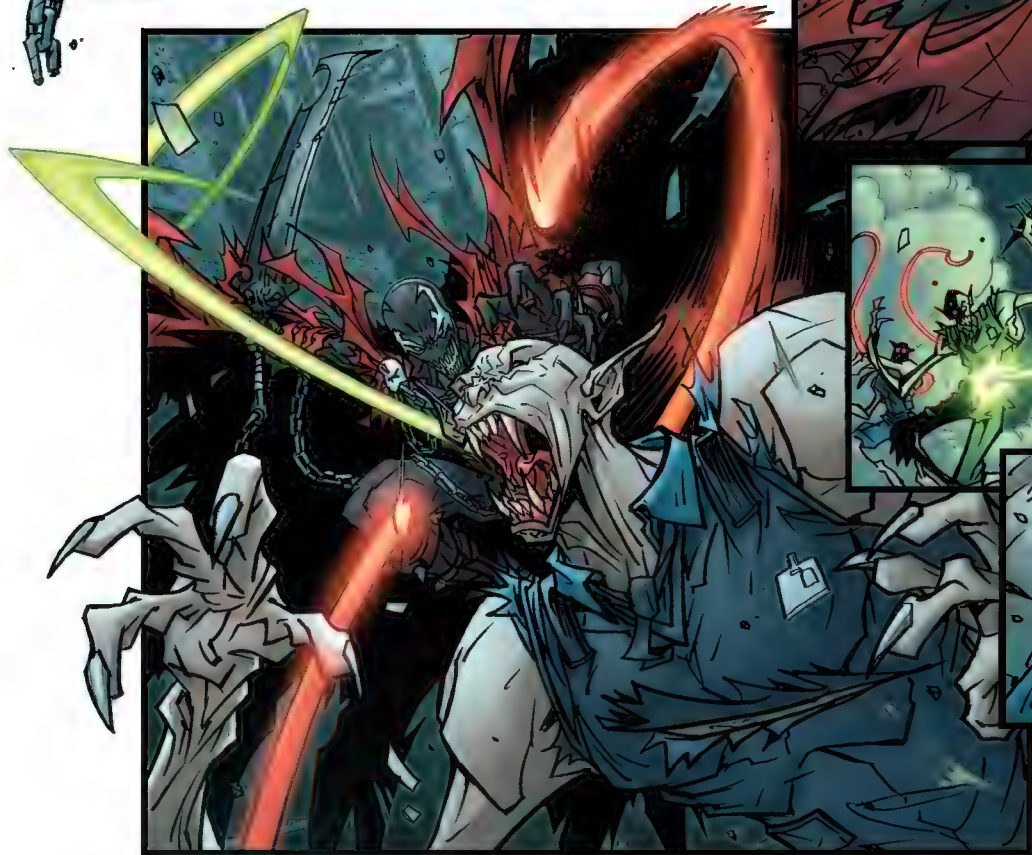
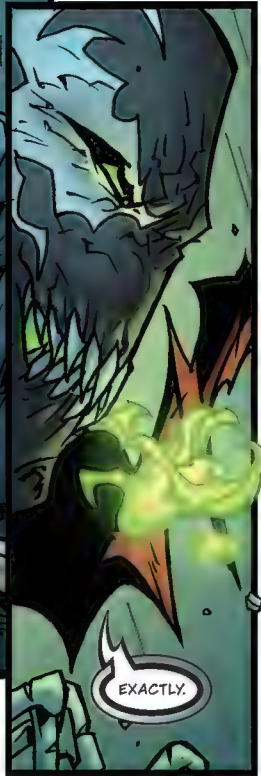
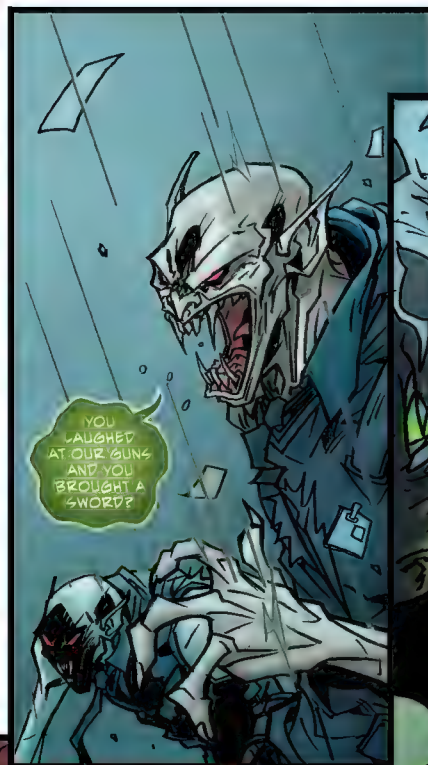
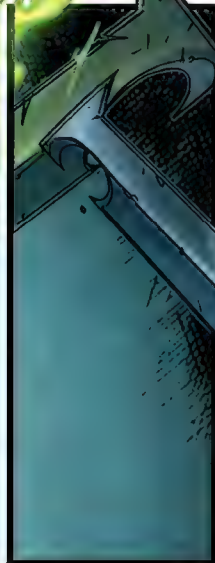
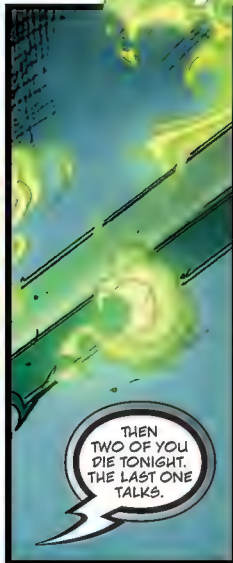
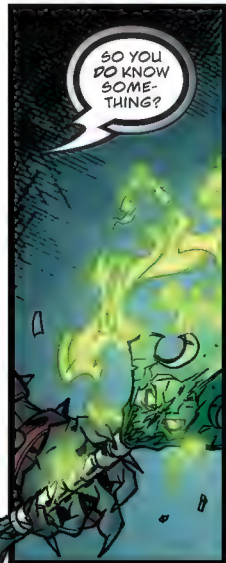


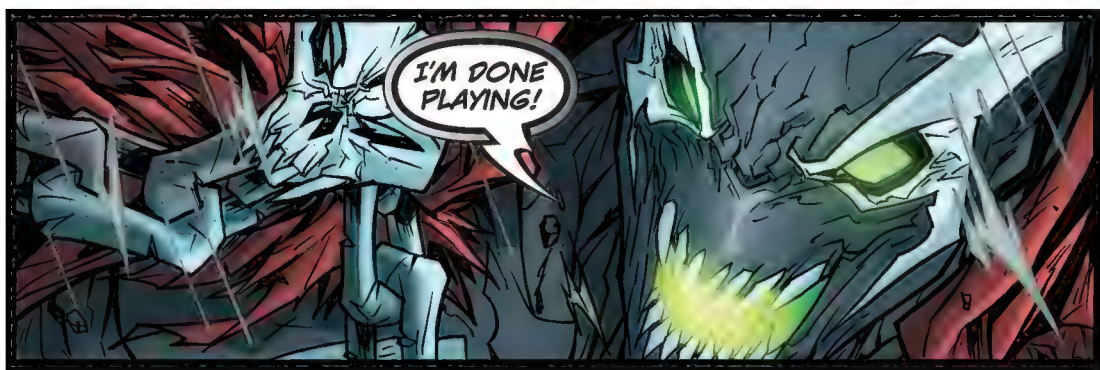
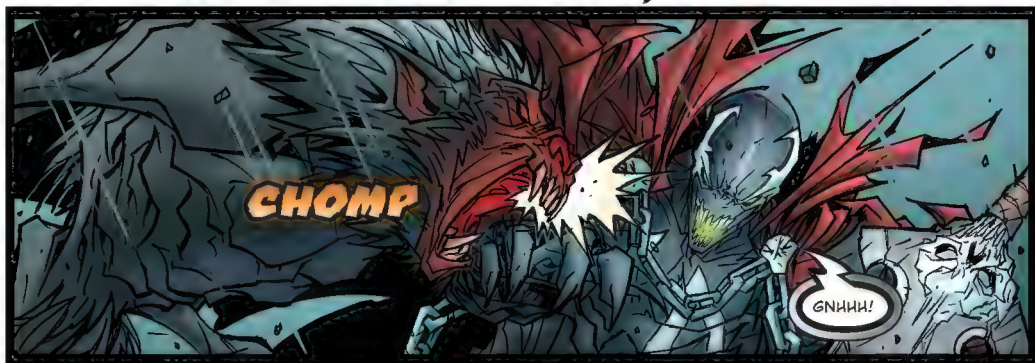




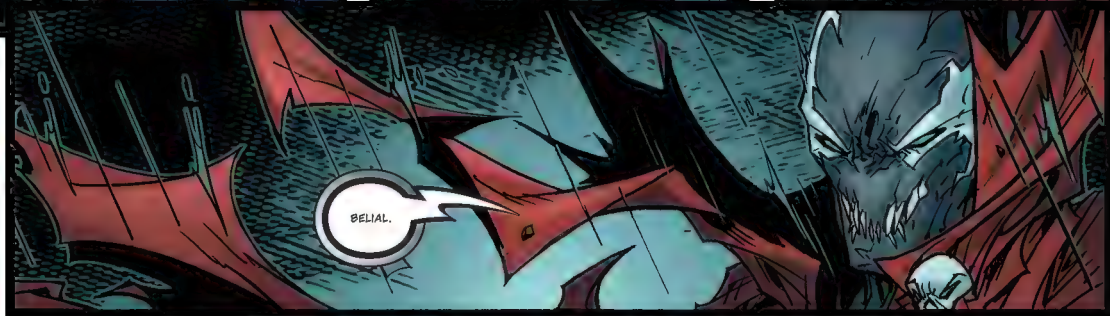
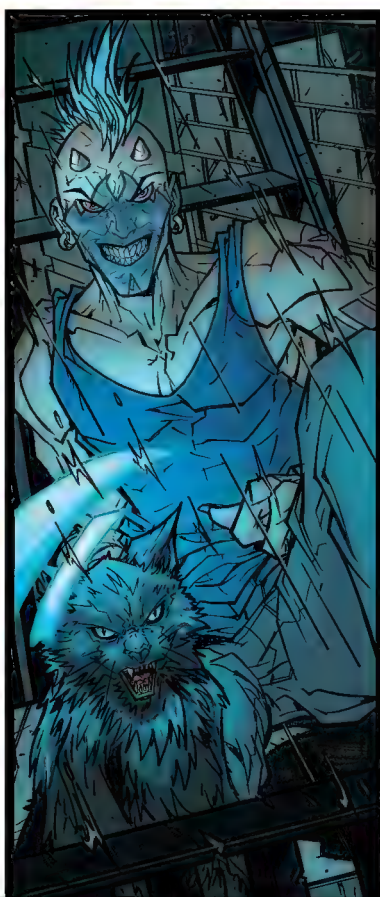
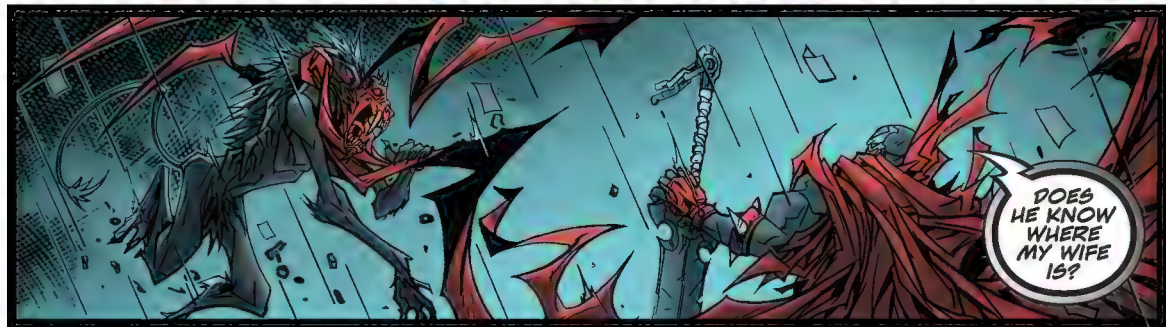
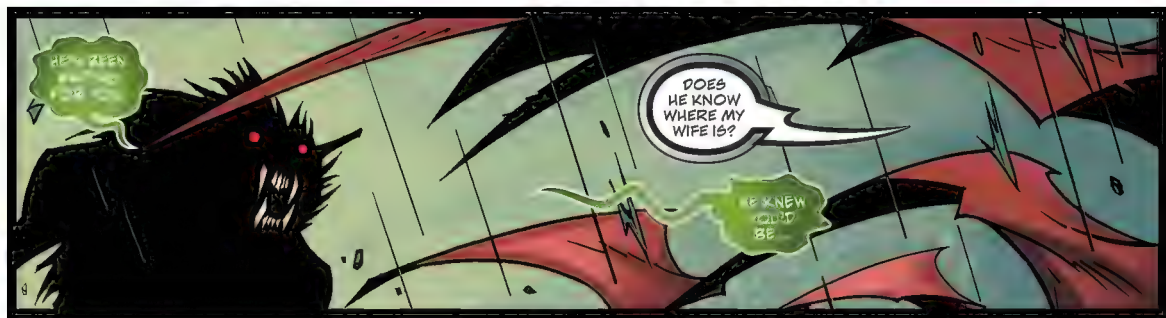


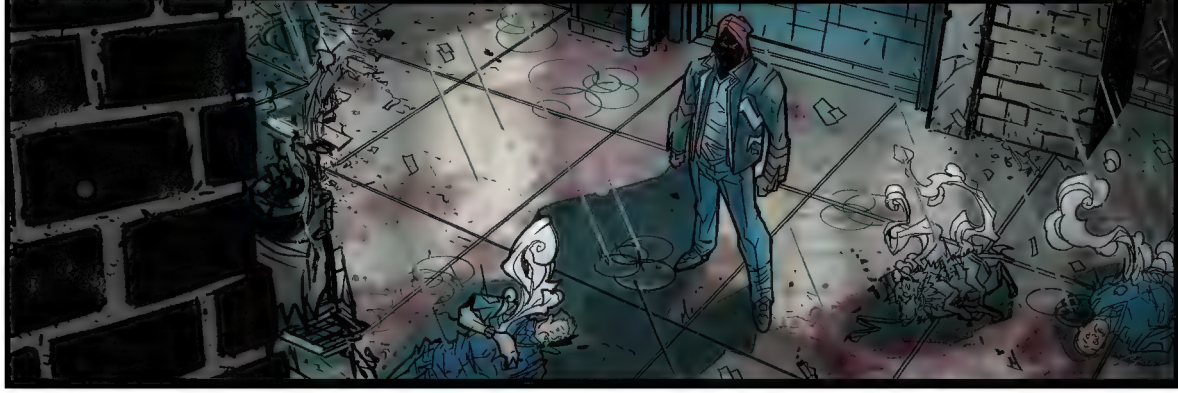
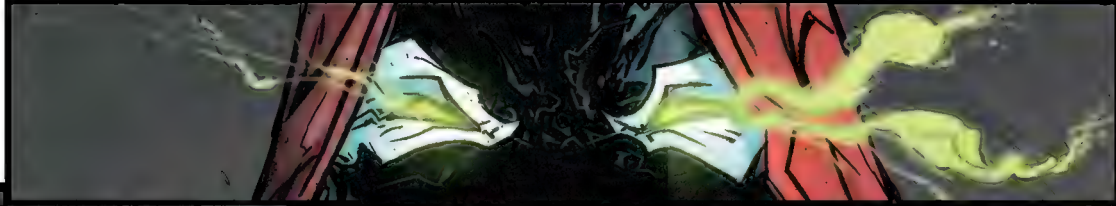
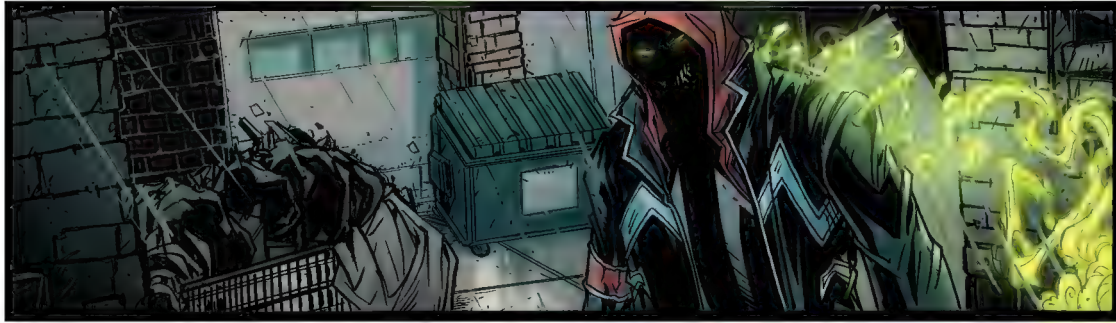
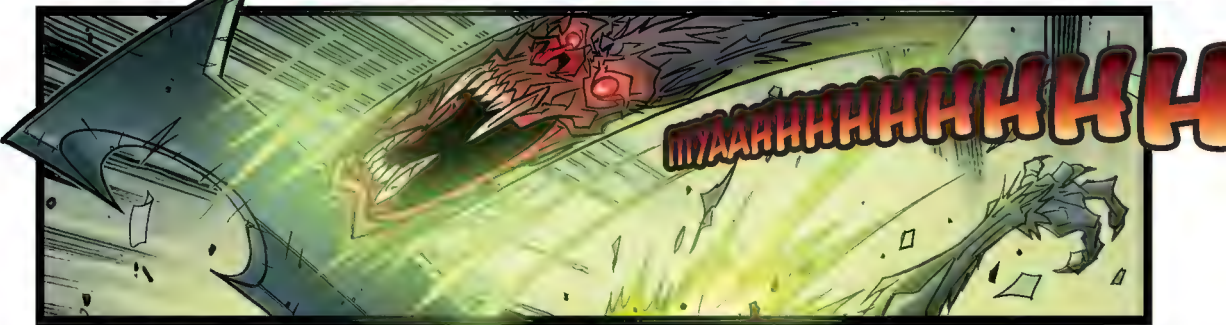
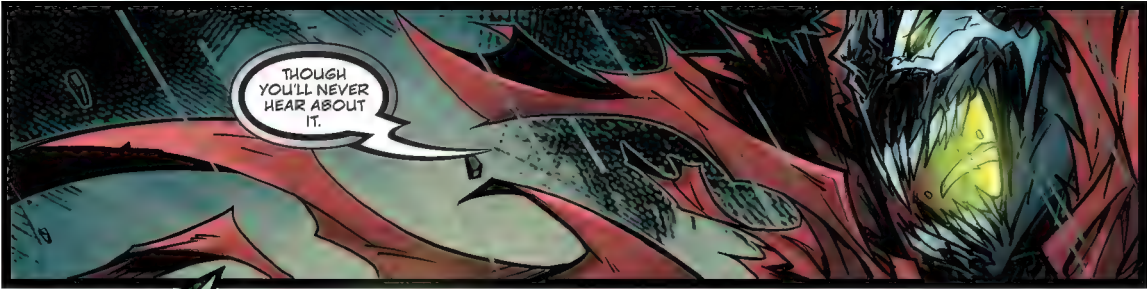




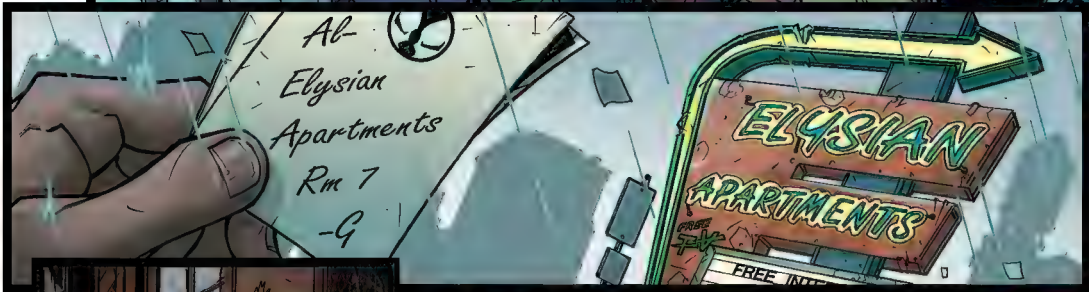








An hour later.



CAN I HELP YOU?

NO THANKS, I'M... JUST HERE VISITING SOMEONE.



COME IN.

MIKE...?

THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME AGAIN?



I DIDN'T JUST WANT TO SEE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST. YOU SAID THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE YOU?

THERE ARE.

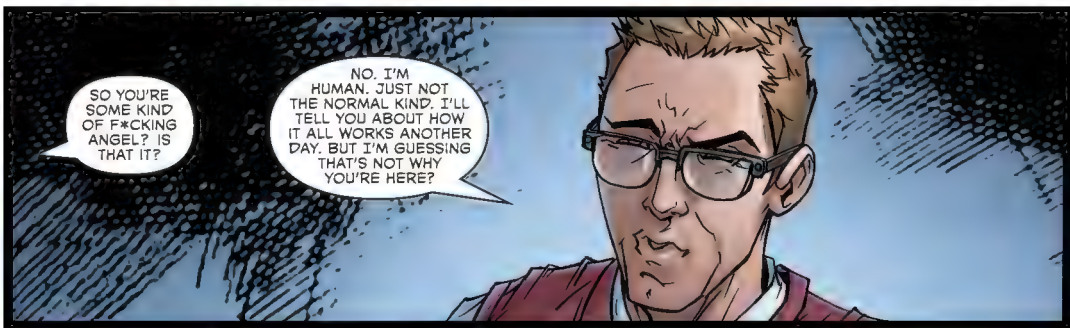


AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU?

WE'RE 'MESSENGERS.' SOME OF US STRICTLY OBSERVE. OTHERS OF US ARE ALLOWED TO INTERACT.

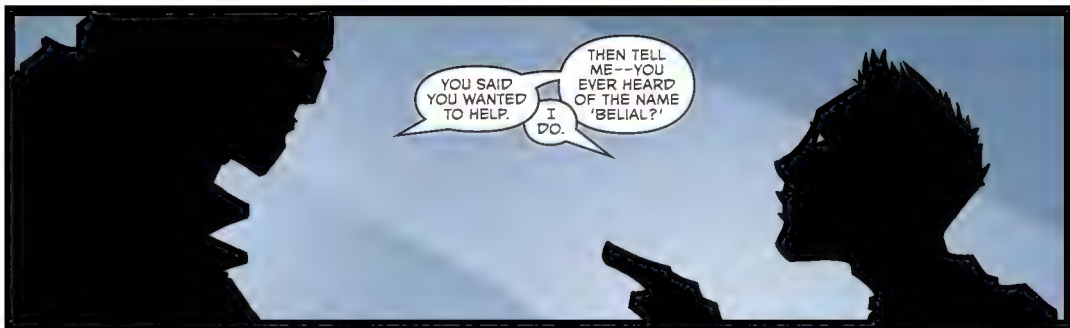
INTERACT WITH WHAT?

WITH HUMANS.



SO YOU'RE SOME KIND OF F*CKING ANGEL? IS THAT IT?

NO, I'M HUMAN. JUST NOT THE NORMAL KIND. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW IT ALL WORKS ANOTHER DAY. BUT I'M GUESSING THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE?



YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP.

I DO.

THEN TELL ME--YOU EVER HEARD OF THE NAME 'BELIAL'?



WHO TOLD YOU THAT NAME?

THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING. AND FROM YOUR RESPONSE, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.

I HAVE. HE... USED TO BE ONE OF US. ONE OF GOD'S CHOSEN. WE ALL THOUGHT HE'D BE A LEADER SOMEDAY. THAT HE'D ASCEND TO THE THRONE AT SOME POINT, BUT HE DIDN'T. HE LET HIS OWN HUBRIS GET THE BETTER OF HIM. ALWAYS THINKING HE WAS BETTER... THAT THE REST OF US WERE BENEATH HIM. OR AT LEAST INFERIOR TO HIM. AND FOR A WHILE, GOD LIKED THAT TRAIT IN HIM.

SHE ALWAYS TOLD US, "WAR'S HARD WORK AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE," BECAUSE WHEN HELL CRASHES OUR GATES, SELF-CONFIDENCE MIGHT BE THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US ALIVE.



MOST OF US UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT, BUT BELIAL TOOK IT TO AN EXTREME, BECOMING SO SELF-ABSORBED WITH HIMSELF, HE WAS BLINDED TO THE DESTRUCTION HE WAS DOING TO THE CHEMISTRY OF OUR BATTALION. EVENTUALLY HE NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH.

HE DIDN'T TAKE HIS PUNISHMENT VERY WELL.



SO HE JUMPED TO THE OTHER SIDE, THINKING HE'D SHOW HEAVEN IT WAS WRONG. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LEADER—THE ONE GOD LOOKED TO. HE ALSO SWORE HIS REVENGE ON ALL OF US AT SOME TIME. HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ANYONE HE THOUGHT HAD HUMILIATED HIM, REGRET THEIR ACTIONS.



WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?

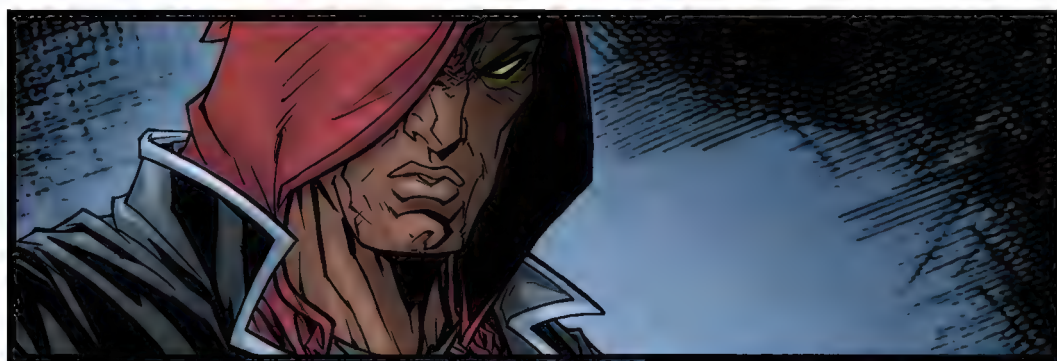
BELIAL KNEW GOD HAD AN EYE ON YOUR SOUL. MY GUESS IS HE JUST WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GOD BY MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD. SO HE THOUGHT...

HE KILLED MY WIFE TO **DISTRACT** ME...? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?

SORT OF. WANDA WAS JUST COLLATERAL DAMAGE FROM HIS ANGER AT GOD.

I'M SORRY.

YOUR WIFE'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF SOMEONE HATING SOMEONE ELSE. YOU WERE JUST WHITE NOISE TO HIM.



AND BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID, I TOLD GOD I'D VOLUNTEERED TO HELP STOP HIM. TO DO THAT I MADE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.

YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE MORTAL.

I AM, BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK. TO HELP I HAD TO GIVE UP SOMETHING. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN'T SEE IT. IT'S IN THE MIRROR.

WHAT?... WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP?





A comic book panel depicting a dramatic moment. In the foreground, a man with brown hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a red cape, is seen from the side, looking out through a shattered window. Outside the window, a knight in full plate armor, including a helmet with a gold crest, stands amidst the wreckage. The knight's expression is one of intense determination or anger. The background shows a dark, industrial setting with structural beams. A large speech bubble from the knight reads "EVERYTHING!". A smaller speech bubble from the man in the cape reads "I HAD TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING I EVER WAS.".

EVERYTHING!

I HAD TO
GIVE UP
EVERYTHING
I EVER WAS.





SPAWNING GROUND

Hello all,

After the celebration of hitting the #250 milestone and introducing our new *Spawn* creative team in *Spawn Resurrection*, we are back on track with *Spawn* #251. In only 50 more issues, Todd will have one of the LONGEST RUNNING INDEPENDENT COMICS in history.

Although things are slowing down in *Spawn* news, Todd has a NEW comic debuting this month. *Savior* #1 hits shelves April 15th with beautifully painted pages by Clayton Crain and co-written by Todd and Brian Holguin.

For those of you who need a refresher on who Brian and Clayton are, we'll see if we can bring you up to speed. Both of them have done extensive work in comics, and both also have a history with Todd.

Brian began his collaboration with Todd writing *Spawn* in 1998. He continued in that role until 2005, creating many memorable moments. Brian has also worked on *KISS: Psycho Circus*, *Aria*, *Jim Henson's' Dark Crystal: Creation Myths*, and *Spawn: Godslayer* comics.

Clayton Crain is a well-known comic industry top talent. His resume is extensive with highlights containing prominent titles such as *X-Force*, *Ghost Rider*, and *Carnage*. Crain's previous work with Todd also includes *KISS: Psycho Circus* and *Curse of the Spawn*. He also lends a hand creating breathtaking covers for the *Spawn: Origins* collected editions. Clayton is currently working for Valiant Comics on the popular comic, *Rai*.

For this week's Spawning Ground, we are finishing up answering Reddit questions. There were so many good questions. we didn't want to leave any out. As always, if you have a question you would like Todd to answer, you can either write to letterspage@mcfarlane.com or go on Todd's Facebook (facebook.com/liketoddmcfarlane) or Twitter (@Todd_McFarlane).

Enjoy!

Shannon Bailey

Publishing Coordinator

Will *Spawn* ever return to HBO or the big screen?

Metsfan718

Hopefully he'll get back on the big screen and then immediately follow up with him being back on television, but not necessarily HBO.

TODD

How did you get started in the art world and how do you find inspiration for your day-to-day work?

Courtierbaby420

I started collecting comics when I was about 16 years old. Then taught myself how to draw superheroes. When I went to college, I sent out about 700 submissions and received about 350 rejections, and I still have a lot of them. Eventually somebody said yes. So after 350 "no's" I got one "yes" and I was in the business! My persistence and some stubbornness paid off. I think that we all have some kind of skill in us. But maybe I look at the world slightly different than everybody else. I take what's in front of me, twist it, and turn it into some big melodramatic fantasy story.

TODD

When can we expect the next printing of *Spawn Origins* Hardcover #1?

Brandon_Storm

Well, we just released the entire 250-issue library digitally in January for the first time. I'd been holding out for 2 decades on that. So we made that move and we didn't want digital downloads to interfere by putting out a new *Origins* book. We'll probably do another *Origins*

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book later in the year, once we let the digital stuff take off.

TODD

What do you consider the best thing you ever wrote or have drawn? Do you think your artistic talent and creativity helps with business decisions since you tend to come from a different direction?
Ckelly54

I'm naive enough to think that the future will be my better artwork. But I wrote a single contained story about a dad who was abusive to his kids, (so a bit of a personal story about just some topics that got me wound-up). And I thought that issue from a storytelling perspective was really good. I thought *Spider-Man* was pretty good artistically. I think being an athlete, being competitive, and having to always earn my position made me very focused - not only as an artist, with my deadlines, but also now as a businessman.

TODD

Will there be a *Spawn* Universe where the different Spawns will come together for a joint venture? Spawn League of America?
Luoy_panda

No.

TODD

What are some key dos and don'ts to getting a comic ready to submit to Image?
Stavius

Concentrate on storytelling more than any other element. Which simply means don't worry about drawing pretty pictures. Make an engaging story.
TODD

Do you think you will at some point do a complete reboot back to a #1 issue?
Denzalo

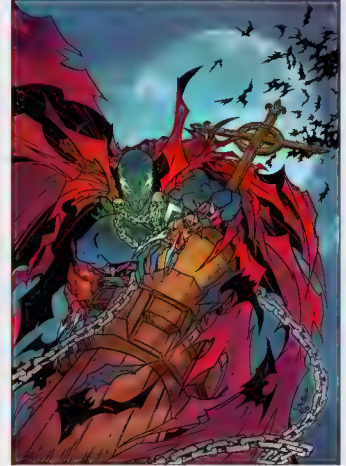
The simple answer is: no, never. The biggest reason is that ALL of the other companies have been doing that. So currently I have the highest book in the *NATION!* Issue #250 just came out and the only way to get the 250 issues is by putting in over 20 years of your life. One per month, times twenty years still isn't even 250. So I'm not willing to throw away 20 years of my life for an arbitrary number in the corner of my book.

TODD

As a former owner of the Edmonton Oilers, what's your opinion of the team under Katz's ownership? Is there anything you would change immediately?
OhHelloPlease

Well, the Oilers are an NHL franchise, so they've fallen on tough times here since we sold it to the new guy. He gets to make the decisions, he's the boss now. And I would probably change a few things, if I was the boss, but I'm not. So I'll let him have all the credit and the criticism, because it's his game right now.

TODD



NEXT ISSUE

What if everything you thought you ever knew was a lie? Armed with the Sword of the Spirit, Spawn discovers the true secret of his infernal suit, and his connection to those innocent souls he has unwittingly damned to eternal torment.



SPAWN®

ORIGINS COLLECTION • VOLUME 20



LET OUR COLLECTIONS COMPLETE YOURS.

NEW DESIGN. NEW FORMAT. ALL CLASSIC SPAWN.

The *Spawn: Origins* collection of books contains the stories and artwork that helped create the *Spawn* legacy – and demonstrates why it is the most successful independent comic book ever published. Each release of the *Spawn: Origins* series includes previously released, sold-out issues of *Spawn*, published in an all-new design and format. But that's just the beginning: exclusive bonus content includes cover galleries, behind-the-scenes art and classic covers re-imagined in a vibrant, new, digitally painted style. Available in a variety of editions to fit your needs.

Check your local comic dealer or bookstore or call 1-888-COMIC-BOOK to find the comic book shop nearest you.

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**"THE MOST TERRIFYING COMIC
YOU'VE EVER READ."**

—MTV NEWS

**"WILL HORRIFY READERS ON
EVERY LEVEL."**

—COMIC BOOK RESOURCES

**"THESE WEREN'T GOING TO BE THE
BULBOUS NOSE, BROOM-RIDING
HALLOWEEN CARICATURES. THESE
WITCHES ARE A CANNIBALISTIC,
SKELETAL RACE THAT HIDE IN
THE FOREST."**

—NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

**"DARK AND BRUTAL... WYTCES ARE
LIKE NOTHING HORROR FANS
HAVE EVER SEEN."**

—USA TODAY

**"THE WRITER ISN'T JUST COMPLETELY
REINVENTING WITCHES... HE'S DIVING
DEEP INTO VERY REAL FEARS ABOUT
BEING A PARENT, AND THE UGLINESS
THAT HIDES IN ALL OF US."**

—ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"CREEPY AND GREAT."

—JEFF LEMIRE

**"CERTAIN PANELS MAY GIVE
YOU NIGHTMARES."**

—IO9

**"VERY, VERY SCARY... THE SCARES
LIE MUCH DEEPER THAN THE
FIGHT-OR-FLIGHT RUSH OF OUTSIDE
FORCES HURTING OR MAIMING.
MUCH LIKE THE WORKS OF MARY
SHELLEY AND THE OTHER WRITERS
OF THE VILLA DIODATI."**

—PASTE MAGAZINE

"MONUMENTAL."

—BLOODY DISGUSTING

**"AS MUCH ABOUT THE DEEPEST
FEARS PARENTS FACE AS IT IS ABOUT
SPOOKY MONSTERS IN THE WOODS."**

—COMPLEX MAGAZINE

**"VAMPIRES AND ZOMBIES ARE
PLAYED OUT. IT'S TIME FOR
WITCHES."**

—MENTAL FLOSS

"[A] SPECTACULAR NEW SERIES!"

—THE HUFFINGTON POST

**"AN AWESOME AND AT TIMES
TERRIFYING TALE."**

—IGN

"IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT DOWN. BRAVO."

—JOE HILL

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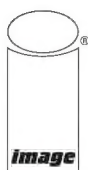
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